

MICHIGAN 1040CR-5 2003

Michigan Farmland Preservation Tax Credit

Forms and Instructions



New Mailing Address for 2003

Mail your return and attachments to the address on your *MI-1040 Individual Income Tax Return*. The yellow Special Notice is no longer required.

File Early!

File your return early since it will be processed in the order received. Attach all the requested information to prevent delays in processing your refund.

Choose e-file and Receive Your Refund in 7 Days

You may now e-file your 2003 Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Claim. If you choose to e-file, you must also file a completed Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim (Forms MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2), even if you are not qualified to receive a credit. For more information, see page 15 or visit our Web site at **www.MIfastfile.org**.

You may **not** take advantage of electronic filing when claiming a farmland credit if any of the following conditions apply to you:

- You have more than 25 agreements.
- You are filing for Property Development Rights.
- You have a joint agreement and the apportionment is not equal for all partners.

Visit Our Web Site at
www.michigan.gov/treasury

This book is intended as a guide to help you complete your return. It does not take the place of the law.

Important Information

Treasury is committed to fair, consistent and courteous customer service.

We are pleased to offer the following services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Note: To get return information using the “Internet” and “Telephone” options below, you must have the primary filer’s Social Security number and adjusted gross income (AGI) or household income.



Internet

www.michigan.gov/it

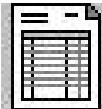
Access the Department of Treasury Web site to: (1) check the date Treasury is currently processing returns, (2) check if your refund has been issued, and when, for the current year and three prior years, (3) ask Treasury a question, and (4) request copies of returns filed. Visit our Web site at **www.michigan.gov/it** to access these service options. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is also available.



Telephone

1-800-827-4000

Call the Computerized Return Information System (CRIS) to: (1) check the date Treasury is currently processing returns, (2) check if your refund has been issued, and when, for the current year and three prior years, (3) check estimated payments, and (4) order copies of current and prior year tax forms.



Forms

Internet: Forms are available on our Web site at **www.michigan.gov/treasury**

Fax: Dial 517-241-8730 from a fax phone to have current year Michigan tax forms sent to your fax machine 24 hours a day.

Phone: Call toll-free 1-800-827-4000 to have tax forms mailed to you.

Public Offices (available during regular business hours): Commonly used forms are available at Treasury offices (see back cover), and at most public libraries, Northern Michigan post offices, Michigan Secretary of State branch offices, and Family Independence Agency branch offices.

Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment may call 517-636-4999 (TTY).

Important Reminders

- The *Schedule CR-5* was created to provide more space to list all your agreements and corresponding taxes. Use this form to list your agreements. Processing of your refund may be delayed if the *Schedule CR-5* is not used.
- A *Michigan Individual Income Tax Return* (Form MI-1040) and a *Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim* (Form MI-1040CR) must be completed and filed with your *Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Claim* (Form MI-1040CR-5) even if you are not otherwise required to file these forms. File all forms and attachments at the same time.
- Deduct all special assessments, penalties, interest and other non-allowable charges from the property tax bills.
- Include your previous year’s farmland preservation tax credit in federal adjusted gross income.
- Enter **the most current** agreement numbers on *Schedule CR-5* and on the property tax statements. If agreements have been renewed the agreement numbers will change.

Common Errors

Check for these **common errors** that can delay your refund:

- Failing to complete *Schedule CR-5* according to instructions.
- Using a label with incorrect information on the *MI-1040* form or writing illegibly.
- Transposing numbers in the Social Security number.
- Failing to attach all applicable federal returns and schedules (U.S. 1040, 1065, 1120S, K-1, etc.).
- Entering figures on wrong lines.
- Computation errors.
- Failing to sign your return (both spouses must sign for joint returns).
- **Failing to attach 2003 tax statements that show the taxable value and an itemized listing by millage rate of the property taxes levied.**

Where to Mail Your Return

Review your return carefully and make sure it is complete. Assemble your returns and attachments in the order shown on the back of the MI-1040CR-5 form.

New for 2003: Mail your return and attachments to the address on your *MI-1040 Individual Income Tax Return*. The yellow Special Notice is no longer required.

General Information

What is the Farmland Preservation Credit?

The Farmland Preservation Credit gives back to farmland owners a share of the property tax they pay on their farmland. Farmland owners qualify for credit by agreeing to keep the land as farmland and not develop it for another use.

Farmland Preservation Credit Qualifications

You qualify if you meet **all** of these requirements:

- You own farmland.
- You have entered into a Farmland Development Rights Agreement (FDRA) with the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).
- You are eligible to file an MI-1040.

Farmland Development Rights Agreement

Through an FDRA you receive property tax relief in return for your pledge not to change the use of your lands.

Caution: The FDRA restricts development of your land. Before making any changes to property covered under this agreement or to its ownership, consult the MDA. Some changes may make your property ineligible for credit.

Property Development Right

A Property Development Right (PDR) is an easement purchased from the land owner by MDA on behalf of the State of Michigan to protect development of prime farmland.

How to Claim the Credit

Complete the enclosed forms and file them with your MI-1040. Attach a copy of pages 1 and 2 of your U.S. 1040 and copies of U.S. *Schedules C, D, E, F* and U.S. 4797, 4835, 1065, 1120S and K-1s if you needed to complete them for your federal tax return. If you are not required to file a federal return, attach a schedule showing farm income and expenses used to arrive at net income.

Note: You must attach copies of the federal schedules that show the income and expense of the farming operation regardless of what kind of entity reports them (e.g., S corporation, trust or partnership). You must also include the following:

- A copy of your 2003 property tax statement(s) that shows the taxable value, the property taxes levied and the corresponding agreement numbers.

- A 2003 MI-1040CR with a completed schedule of household income **even if you are not qualified to receive the credit** (see line 8 instructions on page 6).

- A copy of the receipt showing that your 2002 or 2003 property taxes were paid. If your property taxes have not been paid or you do not attach your receipt(s), Treasury will mail you a check made jointly payable to you and the county treasurer for the county where the property is located. (A new check payable only to you will not be issued if you later prove that the taxes have been paid.)

Note: If a claimant falsely specifies that the receipt showing payment of the property taxes is attached to the return and the property taxes are not paid before the return is filed, all future payments of credits to the claimant will be made payable jointly with the county treasurer of the county in which the property under agreement is located (Section 36109 (7)).

- If your property tax statement includes property that is not covered under an FDRA, you must show what portion of your taxable value and property tax is for land enrolled in the FDRA. **Your local equalization officer or your local assessor must give you this information on official letterhead, if it is not detailed on your property tax bills.**
- If you farmed under a partnership, include a copy of your U.S. 1065 and *Schedules K* and *K-1*.
- If you farmed under an S corporation, include U.S. 1120S and *Schedules K* and *K-1*.
- Joint ownerships must include a statement signed by all owners specifying each owner's percentage of income and expenses.

When to Claim a New Agreement

New agreements must be approved by your local government by November 1, 2003 for you to claim a 2003 credit for that agreement. The new FDRA is not final until you receive a copy from the MDA that has been recorded at the Register of Deeds. Credit for the new FDRA will not be allowed unless a copy of the recorded agreement is attached to your return. If you do not get your copy before April 15, 2004, file your return without claiming credit for the new agreement. File an MI-1040CR-5 with an *Amended Michigan Income Tax Return* (Form MI-1040X) when you receive the new FDRA.

Which Form to File

You may file one of two forms depending on the type of farm ownership.

The following should file using Form MI-1040CR-5 with their income tax return:

- Individuals who own a farm independently.
- An individual in possession under a life estate with remainder to another person.
- Representatives of deceased single persons. Include property taxes and income from January 1 to the date of death.
- Partnerships.
- Joint owners.
- Limited liability companies.
- S corporation shareholders, **except** shareholders of S corporations that had an FDRA before January 1, 1989 and in 1991 elected to file under the Single Business Tax Act on Form C-8022.
- Grantor trusts (if you are treated as an owner under IRS Code, Sections 671 to 679).
- Trusts created by the death of a spouse if the trust requires 100 percent of the income from the trust to be distributed each year to the surviving spouse.

The following should file using Form C-8022:

- Estates. Include property taxes from the date of death and farm income required to be reported on your U.S. 1041.
- Corporations (other than S corporations).
- S corporations that had an FDRA before January 1, 1989 and in 1991 elected to file Form C-8022.
- Trusts, except as noted above.

What to Do With a Jointly Payable Check

Take the check, check stub, and a copy of your FDRA(s) to your county treasurer(s). He or she will ask you to endorse the check, then use the refund to pay any delinquent taxes. Any amount left will be refunded to you.

Property Taxes That Can Be Claimed for Credit

The property taxes levied in 2003 on enrolled land can be claimed for the 2003 credit, regardless of when they are paid. Special assessments (those not based on state equalized or taxable value), penalties and interest cannot be claimed.

Taxes on land not eligible for either the homestead or agricultural exemption most likely are not eligible for P.A. 116 credit. The exception is rental property where the tenant spends at least 1,040 hours per year participating in the farming operation. To compute the taxes that can be claimed for credit, exclude the school operating tax, and multiply the balance by the percentage of exemption allowed by the local taxing authority.

Example:

Taxes levied	\$2,000
School operating tax	\$350
Homestead exemption	60%

\$2,000	\$1,650
- 350	x 60%
\$1,650	\$990 <i>Can be claimed for credit</i>

If you have entered into more than one agreement with the MDA, the sum of the taxes under each agreement is used to compute your credit. The amount of credit you will receive is based on household income.

Computing the Homestead Property Tax Credit

You must include your total farmland preservation credit amount on your MI-1040CR or your MI-1040CR-2. Enter the amount of credit you received in 2003 on the MI-1040CR, line 18, or MI-1040CR-2, line 18. Or, include the credit in net farm income on MI-1040CR, line 16, or MI-1040CR-2, line 16. Homestead property tax credits are not included in Michigan household income. If you included this amount in your taxable farm income, you may subtract it from your household income.

Effect on Your 2003 Taxable Farm Income

The portion of your homestead property tax credit that is for farm buildings and land is business related. To determine the portion that is business income, divide the taxable value of your buildings and land by the total taxable value of your property, then multiply by the credit (see below). Your local assessor can show you how your total taxable value was determined.

Taxable value of buildings and farmland	x	2002 Homestead property tax credit amount
<hr/>		
Total taxable value		
 = Portion of homestead property tax credit that is business income		

You must include your 2002 farmland preservation tax credit amount and the business portion of your 2002 homestead property tax credit in your 2003 federal AGI. If you own your property as an individual but the farming activity is operated under a partnership, report the farmland credit on your personal return.

Was your 2002 tax refund (MI-1040, line 38) greater than the amount of your 2002 farmland preservation credit (MI-1040, line 31) plus the business portion of your homestead property tax credit?

If yes, you may subtract on line 16 of the *MI-1040 Schedule 1* the excess refund amount that you received in 2003 to the extent it was included in federal AGI.

Land Owned by a Person Under a Life Estate

A person in possession for life under a life estate with remainder interest to another person may claim all the property taxes to compute the credit. However, the life estate holder and the person(s) holding the remainder interest may choose to divide the property taxes in the same manner as they divide revenue and expenses. A written agreement must be attached to each return.

Land Owned by a Partnership

Property taxes on land owned by a partnership are allocated to the partners based on the partner's percent of income or ownership. All partners must use the same basis for filing.

If the partnership files a U.S. 1065, the percent is on each partner's *Schedule K-1*. If the partnership is not required to file a U.S. 1065, the percentage of income is on the partnership agreement or on a statement signed by all the partners. If no U.S. 1065 is required, use Part 3 to show percentage of income or ownership.

Farmland Owned With Someone Other Than a Spouse

Taxes on land owned jointly are allocated to each owner. If co-owners divide each item of revenue and expenses and choose to allocate the property taxes that same way, they may do so only if they attach a copy of a statement signed by each owner. The statement must show each owner's share of the revenues and expenses. This requirement can be met by completing Part 3 of the MI-1040CR-5. If a signed income distribution statement is not attached, the taxes must be allocated equally among the owners, with two exceptions:

- A husband and wife are considered one owner, and
- An owner eligible to be claimed as a dependent by another owner cannot receive a share of the taxes and cannot claim a credit for that farmland.

Land Owned by a Limited Liability Company

Property taxes on land owned by a limited liability company are allocated to each member in a percentage equal to the member's share of ownership or distributive share of ordinary income as reported by the limited liability company to the IRS.

Land Owned by an S Corporation or Trust

Beginning with credits for 1988, taxes on land owned by an S corporation are allocated to each shareholder based on the shareholder's share of the corporation's stock. This percentage is on U.S. 1120S, *Schedule K-1*. **Exception:** If the S corporation had an FDRA before 1989 but in 1991 elected to file under the Single Business Tax Act on Form C-8022, the S corporation must

continue to file under the SBT. If the FDRA was not in the S corporation's name before January 1, 1989, the taxes on land covered by this agreement must be claimed on the shareholder's Michigan income tax using Form MI-1040CR-5. These taxes must be claimed by the shareholders even if the S corporation elected to file Form C-8022 for other agreements that the S corporation entered into before January 1, 1989.

For farmland owned by a grantor trust, if you are treated as the owner of that trust under IRC sections 671 - 679, you must include a copy of that portion of the trust agreement that shows that you are the owner of a grantor trust holding title to the farmland.

If the trust was created by the death of a spouse and requires 100 percent of the income to be distributed to the surviving spouse, you must attach a copy of the U.S. 1041 form and *Schedule K-1*, if required.

Claiming a Credit on a Farm Purchased in 2003 That Was Already Enrolled in the Farmland Program

Your farmland credit will be processed only if there is a farmland agreement on file with the MDA **in the same name as your deed**. You must prorate the 2003 taxes for the period you owned the land and claim your credit based only on those taxes.

I Filed for Bankruptcy

If you are enrolled in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act program and have petitioned for bankruptcy (under U.S. Bankruptcy Code, chapters 7, 11, 12 or 13), claim your credit on Form MI-1040CR-5 and attach it to your Michigan income tax return.

You must prorate your credit for the part of the year ending when the petition in bankruptcy was filed. The trustee in bankruptcy or the landowner as Debtor in Possession may file a claim for the portion of the year following the date of petition. Bankruptcy estates are also required to file a fiduciary return (MI-1041).

Transferring an Agreement

To transfer an agreement, you must show that all of the land described under the agreement has been conveyed. The MDA will need a copy of the legal document (e.g., deed, land contract, etc.) used for conveyance and the new owner's name, address, Social Security number, and a fee of \$25.00 per transfer.

For more information on P.A.116 contact:

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Unit
Environmental Stewardship Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30449
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Line-by-Line Instructions: Schedule CR-5 and MI-1040CR-5

Lines not listed are explained on the form.

Schedule CR-5

Column A: Agreement number or contract number is found in the lower right corner of each agreement. The first two numbers represent the county where the property is located. The middle set of numbers is the actual contract number. The final six numbers are the year of expiration, i.e., 123103 (December 31, 2003). The contract number retains its original series throughout the term of the agreement. However, a letter may be added to indicate that the agreement was split into multiple agreements. The final six numbers change when the agreement is reduced or extended. Always use the contract number on your most recently recorded agreement and attach a copy of each 2003 tax statement that corresponds to the agreement number listed.

Column B: List the 2003 taxable value for each parcel of land that you owned in 2003. The taxable value is found on your property tax statement(s) for each agreement. The total taxable value for each agreement must be listed; do not list each individual parcel. You may also contact your local assessor for this information.

Notes: If the property tax statement includes taxable value for land not covered by an FDRA, the taxable value reported in column B must be adjusted accordingly. The taxable value that cannot be claimed must be determined by the local assessor's office and submitted on his or her official letterhead.

If the property tax statement includes taxable value for land on more than one agreement, the taxable value reported in column B must be separated according to land in each agreement. The local assessor will be able to determine what the breakdown is based on the legal descriptions of the land enrolled under each agreement.

Column C: For each agreement, check the "Yes" box if you attached paid tax receipts for 2002 or 2003. If paid receipts are not attached, check the "No" box. If you do not check a box, your Farmland

Preservation Credit will be issued jointly to you and the treasurer for the county where the property is located.

Note: 2003 property tax statements must be attached regardless of which box is checked in column B. If you e-file your MI-1040CR-5, you do not need to send your property tax statements unless requested by mail.

Column D: Enter "I" if you are the individual owner or co-own the land with your spouse, "J" if you are a joint owner with someone other than your spouse, "P" if the land is owned by a partnership, or "S" if the land is owned by an S corporation.

Column E: If the land is owned by you and someone other than your spouse, enter your percent of income from the signed statement or your percent of ownership based on the number of owners. If the land is owned by a partnership, enter your percent of income or ownership. All partners must use the same basis for filing. If the land is owned by an S corporation, enter your percent of stock ownership.

Column F: Individuals enter the taxes from each tax agreement for the portion of land enrolled under an agreement. **Joint owners, partners, and shareholders** enter only their allocated share of taxes from each tax statement for the portion of land enrolled under an agreement.

Note: If the property tax statement includes taxes for land not covered by an FDRA, the taxes reported in column F must be reduced accordingly. The amount of taxes that cannot be claimed must be determined by the local assessor's office and submitted on his or her official letterhead. The 1 percent collection fee may be included. Do not include penalties, interest or special assessments.

If the property tax statement includes taxes for land on more than one agreement, the taxes reported in column F must be separated according to land in each agreement. The local assessor will be able to determine what the breakdown is based on the legal descriptions of the land enrolled under each agreement.

MI-1040CR-5

Line 4: Enter the amount from line 3, column F, Schedule CR-5.

Line 5: If all of the taxes which qualify for a homestead property tax credit are included in the total on line 4, check the "Yes" box. Otherwise, check the "No" box.

Line 6: If you answered "Yes" to line 5, enter "NONE." If you answered "No" to line 5, enter the taxes on your home and farmland that qualify for a homestead property tax credit but are not included in your FDRA.

Line 7: Add the total of line 4 to line 6. If you wrote "NONE" on line 6, carry the total on line 4 to line 7.

Before completing line 8, read "Computing the Homestead Property Tax Credit" on page 4.

Line 8: Enter your total household income from your MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2. If you are a part-year or nonresident, include total 2003 household income, regardless of source.

Line 9: Enter the depletion allowance claimed on your federal income tax return. If you are not entitled to a depletion allowance, enter "NONE."

Line 11: Enter amount of property tax from line 4. This line **must be completed**.

Line 15: If line 15 is less than line 7, enter the amount from line 13 on line 31 of your MI-1040. If line 15 is greater than line 7, complete lines 16 through 18.

Complete columns G and H of Schedule CR-5 only if you have entered into more than one agreement.

Schedule CR-5, Column H: Multiply line 13 or 18 from the CR-5, whichever applies, by the percentage computed in column G for each agreement and enter in column H.

PART 3: If you own farmland jointly with someone other than your spouse, complete Part 3. For each agreement, enter the information for each owner.

Partners may use this part to show percentage of income or ownership if no U.S. 1065 was required. All partners must sign.

Forms contained in this book (pages 7-14) are posted separately. Select and print the form you need from the list below.

Forms

Page No.

MI-1040CR-5 Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Claim.....	7-10
Schedule CR-5, Schedule of Taxes and Allocation to Each Agreement	11-14

53 Million Taxpayers e-filed Last Year.

What do they know
that you don't?



E-filing your Michigan tax return is the fastest, easiest, most convenient way to your refund. One-third of Michigan taxpayers chose e-file last year.

• **Free for qualified taxpayers!**

You may be able to file for free. To find out more visit our Web site at www.Mlfastfile.org.

• **Easy!** Instructions guide you through your return quickly and easily, even if you are not familiar with computers.

• **Accurate!** Instant calculations make sure your return contains no math errors.

• **Convenient!** E-file through your tax preparer or e-file 24/7 from your home or office.

• **Secure!** Your confidential information is encrypted and sent over secure phone lines.

• **Save time!** No more hunting for the forms you need.

• **Save state tax dollars!**
Processing e-filed returns costs less.

• **Find money!** E-file may show you refunds or credits you didn't know you were entitled to.

• **File now, pay later!** Even if you owe tax, you can e-file now and mail your payment by April 15th.

• **Relax!** With e-file you'll get confirmation that your return was received.

• **Fast!** Get your Michigan refund in about 7 business days. This year paper returns will take considerably longer to process.

To see if you qualify for free e-file, to learn how to e-file your own return, or to find a tax preparer in your area who offers e-file, visit www.Mlfastfile.org.



Point. Click. File.

Treasury Offices

Forms are available at all Treasury offices listed below. (Treasury office staff do not prepare tax returns.)

DETROIT, 48202-6060
Cadillac Place, Suite 2-200
3060 W. Grand Blvd.

DIMONDALE*
7285 Parsons Drive
(* NOT a mailing address)

ESCANABA, 49829
State Office Building, Room 7
305 Ludington St.
(open 8 - 12 only)

FLINT, 48502
State Office Building, 7th Floor
125 E. Union St.

GRAND RAPIDS, 49503
State Office Building, 3rd Floor
350 Ottawa Ave., NW

STERLING HEIGHTS, 48314
41300 Dequindre Rd., Suite 200

TRAVERSE CITY, 49684
701 S. Elmwood Ave., Suite 1
(open 8 - 12 only)

Mail your return to the address on your MI-1040 Individual Income Tax Return.
The yellow Special Notice is no longer required.